TENNESSEE EQIP FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECTED TIMELINE February 6, 2009

February 20:

Defer any existing FY 2008 unfunded EQIP applications (Pending, Eligible or Preapproved status).

February 27:

Stakeholder Input and Local Work Group (LWG) meetings are held to develop EQIP conservation practice lists. LWGs develop Local Issue questions (not to exceed 20 questions) for the County Base Ranking Tool.

Sub-committees of the State Technical Committee have conducted meetings to develop State Issue questions for remaining Ranking Tools.

ACs submit completed spreadsheets to AnnSue in the format provided. The spreadsheets will contain the selected conservation practices and alist of local questions. Eligible applications that have passed the screening tool can be ranked in any fund code as soon as ranking is finalized.

March 2:

County ranking spreadsheets posted on the Tennessee Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) EQIP web site.

March 30:

<u>EQIP</u> application cut off for all fund codes <u>except Priority Practice</u>, <u>Beginning Farmer</u>, and <u>Socially Disadvantaged Farmer Fund Codes</u>. Applications received for these fund codes will be worked and funded continuously as long as funds are available.

April 15:

Batch 1 Funding of Ranked Applications - Ranking of applications that have passed the screening tool should start as soon as possible. Applications not ranked by this date will be considered in the next batch of funding after they have passed the screening tool and are ranked.

May 15:

Batch 2 Funding of Ranked Applications - Ranking of applications that have passed the screening tool should start as soon as possible. Applications not ranked will be considered 2010 funding.

July 1:

All funded applications signed into contracts